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AUTHOR Jarvis, Peter
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ABSTRACT

This book is intended as an introduction to the political theory of the education of adults. Chapter 1 examines the relationship between adult education (AE) and civil society over the past several hundred years. Discussed in Chapter 2 are major theoretical and ideological perspectives about the state and AE, affinities between AE and political ideology, and the relationship between AE and policy in the United Kingdom. Chapter 3 describes the relationship of state policy and justice to AE. The ways in which the structures and content of AE can be related to the bureaucratic state are explored in Chapter 4. Examined in Chapter 5 are the concept of democracy and various ways in which it may be related to adult learning and AE. Chapter 6 presents four case studies illustrating the thesis that AE may be regarded as a social or citizenship right that the state does not necessarily concede without a struggle. In Chapter 7, the idea of interests is examined and related to the more popular notion of educational needs. Chapters 8 and 9 focus respectively on the relationship between liberal AE and a civilized society, and the existence of utopian thought in radical AE. Each chapter includes a substantial reference list. (MN)

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